

While initiating a package of measures to enhance economic efficiency and competitiveness of domestic agriculture, Government are committed to protecting Indian farmers from dumping of agricultural surpluses by developed countries, as well as from other adverse consequences of the WTO regime. Several Instruments to this end are available at our disposal, such as import duties, which have been comprehensively enhanced during the past year, anti-dumping and countervailing duties, safeguard measures and sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards which can be used to protect domestic interests.

- During the on-going negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture of WTO, food security of our people, protection of domestic farmers farmers and their livelihood, as well as export maximization, are the guiding principles.

Decline in Agricultural Production

4592. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in both agriculture production as well as foodgrains production estimated during 2000-2001 as compared to 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to reverse the declining trend in agriculture as well as foodgrains production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The production of foodgrains and other important crops for 2000-2001, according to advance estimates as on 12.04.2001, *vis-a-vis* the final estimates for 1999-2000 is given as under:

(Million tonnes)

| Crop/Group of crops | 2000-01* | 1999-2000 |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| Foodgrains | 196.13 | 208.87 |
| Nine oilseeds\$ | 18.70 | 20.87 |
| Cotton@ | 11.48 | 11.64 |
| Jute & Mesta# | 10.35 | 10.53 |
| Sugarcane | 301.44 | 299.23 |

* Advance estimates as on 12.04.2001.

\$ Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed, and mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soyabean.

@ Million bales of 170 kgs. each.

Million bales of 180 kgs. each.

The estimates for 2000-01 are advance estimates and are subject to revision as more precise information flow after the agriculture year 2000-01 is over. The production of above crops/group of crops except oilseeds have generally registered an upward trend, albeit with fluctuations.

However, fluctuations in case of oilseeds are more pronounced because these are sown under rainfed conditions and thus its production depends to a great extent on behaviour of monsoon.

(c) To increase production and develop agriculture in different parts of the country in future, the Government has decided to switch over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States. The scheme integrates 27 schemes into one scheme for supplementation/complementation of states' efforts through work plans which gives flexibility to states to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim for all-round development of agriculture.